



## Prevalence and consequences of disaster-related illness and injury from Hurricane Ike

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### Abstract:

**OBJECTIVE:** To explore the extent to which disasters may be a source of injury and disability in community populations, we examined the prevalence and short-term consequences of disaster-related illness and injury for distress, disability, and perceived needs for care. **DESIGN:** A random population survey was conducted 2-6 months after Hurricane Ike struck Galveston Bay on September 13, 2008. **PARTICIPANTS:** The sample was composed of 658 adults representative of Galveston and Chambers Counties, Texas. **RESULTS:** The prevalences of personal injury (4%) and household illness (16%) indicated that approximately 7,700 adults in the two-county area were injured, and another 31,500 adults experienced household-level illness. Risk for injury/illness increased with area damage and decreased with evacuation. In bivariate tests, injury or illness or both were related to all outcome measures. In multivariate analyses that controlled for co-occurring stressors representing trauma, loss, adversities, and community effects, injury or illness or both were associated with global stress, posttraumatic stress, dysfunction, days of disability, and perceived needs for care, but not with depression or anxiety. **CONCLUSIONS:** The associations of injury with distress and disability suggest that community programs should reach out to injured persons for early mental health and functional assessments and, where indicated, intervene in ways that reduce further disability and need for complex rehabilitative services. The results also point to the potential effectiveness of evacuation incentives with regard to the prevention of disaster-related injury and disability.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/a0020195>

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;  
 surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Policymaker

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Extreme Weather Event, Human Conflict/Displacement

**Extreme Weather Event:** Hurricanes/Cyclones

**Geographic Feature:** 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

**Geographic Location:** 

resource focuses on specific location

United States

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Mental Health/Stress

**Mental Health Effect/Stress:** Stress Disorder

**Intervention:** 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

**Medical Community Engagement:** 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

**Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup:** African American;Latino

**Other Vulnerable Population:** People with disabilities

**Resource Type:** 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content